

A
LETTER

FROM

MR. ANDERSON,

Minister of Dumbarton,

TO

WALTER STEWART

OF

Pardovan.

The Third Edition.

Quod non fecerunt Barbari, fecerunt Barberini.

G L A S G O W :

Printed, Edinburgh reprinted, and are to be sold at Glasgow, by several Persons, Anno Döm. M D C C X V I I I.

P R E F A C E.

THE following Letter having been Published, on *Tuesday* last, without my Knowledge or Allowance; and that, as it would seem, from a very uncorrect Copy; I have found it Necessary to give it this Second Edition, with an Explication of the Allusions therein; and to Order, that it should be done with more Correctness than the Former.

Some nine or ten Months ago, the People of *Glasgow* were pleased to move, that I should be call'd to be One of the Ministers of that Place. Since that Time, One Party has been very Angry with me, because I would not declare my Acceptance; Another yet much more so, because I would not declare my Refusal of the said Call, e're it came in my Offer. To both these I have had so little Respect, as e'en to think, that *Solomon* was as Wise as either of 'em, who says, That, *He that answereth a Matter before he hears it, it is a shame and folly unto him*: And if I shall not be able, in the Issue, to Justify my Silence, as well as a Certain Party to Justify the Noise they have made in this Matter, (not very much, 'tis said, to their own Advantage) I shall bear the Blame. Mean while, I cannot but Complain, that I have been used in a Manner hitherto Unparallel'd in the Church of *Scotland*, and which I hope shall never be imitated. But a short Letter will not admit of a long Preface. The old Advice, *BEAR DOUN ANDERSON*, is certainly the best Politick at Present, and Whisper and Falshood [it artfully usher'd in with the Preface of a great Esteem for him] the most certain Way of promoting it. But enough at once.-----

Dumbarton, September 27th. 1717.

JOHN ANDERSON

A

L E T T E R

F R O M

Mr. *Anderson*, to *Pardovan*.

Dumbarton, 26 August, 1717.

Honoured and Dear Sir,

I am favoured with a Letter Subscribed with your Hand, of the Date the 23 Current, whereof the Tenour follows,

Glasgow, 23 August, 1717.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

I'M very sure my Appearance, at this Time, has evidenced to the World the particular Respect and Esteem I have for You : And whatever *Misrepresentations* there may be to Divert that just Regard which your Merits Challenge ; yet I shall be so Faithful and Just both to the Cause and you, that nothing shall be able to *Allay* my Appearance on your Behalf, unless Things talk'd be perfectly True : What I mean is this, I am informed That in *May* last, at Mr. *Campbel* of *Mamore's* Table, as if it had not been sufficient to have heard several unbecoming Expressions, past at Table, against Mr. *Stirling* the Principal, You, Sir, was pleased to add to the Account, That you knew him Guilty of a Piece of *Chicanerie*, in paying one of the Deceas'd Mr. *Haistie's* Bursars the half of the Burse, for which he craved a Discharge for the whole, and yet thereafter positively Refused to pay him the other Half. Sir, this is a Piece of *undisguised Villany*, if it be true ; but I would fain hope You'll be able to undeceive me, otherwise, I must declare, the Thing is so Offensive to me, that, in case it be true, I cannot but with great Regret offer a Kind of Violence to my self in *Superseding* my Appearance for you. However, nothing shall be able to divert me from Appearing for the Liberties and Priviledges of the Christian People, that, I think, on this Occasion have been Unjustly Attack't. In the mean Time I am with great Respect and Affection,

Reverend Sir,

Your very Humble Servant.

WALTER STEWART.

The ANSWER to It; please take in the following Particulars.

IN the *First Place*, I give you Thanks for the Handsome, tho' undeserv'd Complement bestow'd upon me in the Beginning of it; I shall embrace every Occasion to return it by all the real good Offices that it may at any Time fall within my Power to do you.

2dly, I do not believe Principal *Stirling* has any great Claim upon me for Favours granted; and, as to the Matter of *Injuries* given or received I am content, upon due Advertisment, to come to Compt and Reckoning with him, when he pleases, and before as many Witnesses as he pleases. But then,

3dly, It being hardly Credible, but that your Informer has informed Mr. *Stirling* too; I cannot discern the Reason why You have taken up a Quarrel, which is directly *His*. 'Tis true he is a *Principal*; yet I cannot think he wants a Second to Fight his Battles, if it is not out of Vanity, that he disdains to Engage in Person so Mean an Adversary: And if that is it, you may be assured, I can be vain too, and decline Fighting even with *Pardovan*, when he Acts only as Principal *Stirling's* PROXY.

4thly. Whereas you are pleas'd to threaten me, in the Beginning of your Letter with *Allaying*, and in the End of it, with *superfeding* your Appearance for me; and yet conclude with an Assurance, That nothing shall be able to divert you from appearing for the Liberties and Privileges of the Christian People, that, you think, on this Occasion, have been unjustly attack'd. My Answer First, as to your Threatning, and then as to your Resolution, is this.

First, As to your Threatning; I cannot but approve your putting it in Execution; whether you find your Charge against me True or False; because, not to say, that it is reckoned Wisdom even to seek a Pretence to Turn in Time; when one finds he has unwarily engaged on a Losing Side; nor, I say, to speak of this, because I believe it is far from your Temper; yet, by Superfeding your Appearance, in the *First Place*, you will please Principal *Stirling*, as is evident. Every Vulgar Body knows you and he are BROTHERS: And that you, as a Ruling Elder, and he as a Minister, are BRETHREN, was irrefragably determin'd last Synod, by as Learned a Man * as the University can boast of, except the Principal. Now, why should such as are both Brothers and Brethren differ? 2dly, You'll please the
Ministers

* viz. Professor Simson, who, in Face of Synod, at their last Meeting, by Suggesting, that the Word BRETHREN did in the large Apostolick Sense comprehend Ruling Elders as well as Ministers, essay'd to justify a Practice, which every Body thought, was, at least as Political as Pious; the Story of which may chance to be told more particularly on another Occasion.

Ministers of the Neighbouring City (*a*) too; the Cause of all this Bustle being, as the Principal declared in Face of Synod, that the Ministers of the City have an *Aversion* (which, no Man will be so Rude as to doubt, is well enough founded) to have Mr. *Anderson* for their Colleague. Now why should you by continuing your Appearance, *break the Hearts of five Godly Ministers, in favours of one Man* (*b*) ? No, Sir, *Let Jonas be dropt into the Deep, and the Storm shall be Calm* (*c*).

Nay, 3dly, If that can be of any Weight with you, it shall please Me too: For as I did not *Move* the Affair at first, so I never will Solicite any Man to promote it: Nay, I shall never have quarrel with any Man for *Opposing* it, if he content himself to do it only by such fair Means as are consistent with a good Conscience.

Upon the whole then, I cannot but approve of your Executing your Threat at all Ventures. There are only two small Objections against your doing so, viz.

1st, That possibly the *People* may be displeased; but these, Sir, you know even the Best of them, are but *Mob* [*d*] consequently not to be regarded.

2dly, That possibly the *MAGISTRATES* may be displeas'd; but Sir, if they should, you don't want the Laudable Example of a very worthy Person to bid them, *Pack themselves to the Door* (*e*); And being but *Michaelmas's Lairds* (*f*) at best, it cannot be ill Manners to give them a Charge to Remove, now that the Term so fast approaches.

a The reason of this Phrase is, because, 'tis said, That Principal Stirling ordinarily uses this Style in his Prayers for Glasgow before the Students in the University.

b This is said to have been a Note of Professor Simson's Sermon in May last, in one of the Churches of Glasgow; which certainly bears a most kind Innuendo in Favours of Mr. Anderson.

c At the last meeting of the Synod, two Persons, in a private Conversation, taking Notice of the Noise about the calling Mr. Anderson to Glasgow; why, saith the One, the best Expedient I can think of, to calm the Storm, will be, to throw Jonas into the Deep. No, quoth the other, let him rather be sent to the City to preach Repentance.

d When the Burgeses were attending the Presbytry in considerable Numbers for obtaining a Concurrence with their Call, P---S---, 'tis said cry'd out a Mob a Mob.

e This was the mannerly Treatment P---S---, 'tis said gave, in Face of Presbytry to One of the Magistrates of the City, when appearing before 'em to prosecute the said Call.

f This is reported to have been a famous Saying of Mr. C---k's, who, upon the first moving in the foresaid Call would, by that fine phrase, signifie to the Magistrates, that their Interest, in calling a Minister to the City, was very small in Comparison of his own, who held his Place for Term of Life. And the following Allusion to the Kirk and Miln has the same Father, and the same Subject for its Occasion.

I only ask this Favour of you for my own Part, That, if you Desert me as to the getting of a *Kirk* in *Glasgow*, you would yet do what you can to provide me in a *Miln*; and so, even at the worst, I shall *make both a Kirk and a Miln* of it, being resolved, in the foresaid Case to content my self with the *Kirk* of *Dumbarton*.

2dly, As to your Resolution, That, tho' you should be obliged to *super-sede your Appearance for me*, you will yet still continue to *appear for the Liberties of the Christian People*. I have only two Things to say to it.

First, That it is such a Resolution as speaks you a Gentleman of Conscience and Honour, and Justifies the Esteem I have hitherto had for you, and the Honourable, tho' not profitable Character, the World gives you, viz. That you are not duely train'd to make a *Led-Horse* g.

The 2d. is, If you can perswade the rest as well as your self, to Drop me, I hope you will have no further Occasion to *appear for the Liberties of the People*; For, whatever *unjust Attacks* have, on this Occasion, been made on them; yet, in case I be Dropt, you'll find they will proceed as Regularly in time coming as you could wish, unless the People shall unluckily Stumble in their Second Choice on some Body, who has been so Foolish as to Write a Book in Defence of *Presbytry*, when every Body thought it Sinking, and then to Dedicate the same to the Family of *Argyle*, so Notorious in past Generations for their Malignancy, and that too at a Time, when the said Family was under the Hatches, because too Restive to fall in with the Court Measures to destroy *Presbytry* and *Protestantism* at once. This would certainly make the Man of the People's Choice a *Party Man*: And it would be impossible, without *Cramming*, to get him, as a Colleague, down the Throats of those who are well known to be perfectly innocent of all *Party Views*. And if such a Person shall have aggravated all his other Faults, by making in an Address to His Majesty, honourable Mention of the Duke of *Argyle*, for his Pains and Success, in suppressing the late Rebellion. I know not but it may be a quite unpardonable Fault, and make it utterly in vain for you to *Appear for such a one*.

In the Fifth Place, As to your Charge, That in the Month of May last, I H E A R D several unbecoming Expressions past at Mr. Campbel of Mamore's Table against Principal Stirling. Pray, Sir, What if I had? Did either Duty require or Decency allow, that I should quarrel a Gentleman at his own Table, or his Guests that were with him, and that upon the Spot too, for his

g. This is said to have been the Character given, by a very eminent Person of Pardovan, some ten or eleven Years ago, because of his inflexible Integrity in opposing the Court Measures on a very laudable Occasion.

his or their Expressions against any, unless they had been Blasphemy against GOD, or Treason against His Majesty, I do not think I should ; but this is not it I am to put you off with, tho' I suppose it is as Relevant as the Charge. The Answer is this. Once indeed in the Month of *May* last, and but once, either in that Month or since, I was in Mr. *Campbel's* House, I remember very freshly both the Day of the Month, the Day of the Week, the Company that were present, and the main Subjects on which the Discourse turn'd : For my own part I do not remember, that any *Unbecoming Expressions* were past against Principal *Stirling*, or any other Man, either by Mr. *Campbel* or any any of his Family, or any of his Guests : But to put you in Capacity (for I Love to make you easy) of finding out the Truth, I hereby inform you, that there were present at Dinner, besides Mr. *Campbel* and his Family, the Laird of *Duntreath* and his Lady, *Nicol Buntine* of *Ardoch*, *George Napier* of *Kilmahew*, the Laird of *Colgrain* Elder, and Mr. *John M'laurin*. There were at Supper besides the Family and my self, the said Mr. *John M'laurin*, and a Gentlewoman, whom I am no further acquainted with then by her Face, Name and Relation, as I am inform'd to Principal *Stirling's* Family. At Breakfast or Tea next Morning, after which I went off, were present, besides the Family, the said Mr. *John M'laurin* and my self. By this Account, Sir, you'll see my Memory of that Entertainment is not yet quite failed. Now if any of these Persons shall either confess themselves guilty, or accuse any of their Fellows, I assure you, I shall not vindicate them, but for my own part I cannot accuse any of them, and, tho' I could, I would not, being incapable, I hope, of your Informers baseness, who it seems, did eat of Mr. *Campbel's* Bread, and lifted up the heel against him. This Sir, is enough, perhaps more than enough, to answer the first part of your Charge. To which I only add, that though I have several times had the Honour of being at Mr. *Campbel's* Table, I never heard Characters given of any that chanc'd to be spoken of, but with as much Truth, Justice and Candor, as ever I observed given at any Minister's, nay at any Principal's Table.

As to the other part of your Charge, That I added to the Account, by saying, That I knew Principal *Stirling* guilty of a piece of *Chicanrie*, in paying one of the deceased Mr. *Hastie's* Bursars the half of the Burs, for which he craved a Discharge for the whole, and yet thereafter positively refused to pay him the other half. Assure your self of it, Sir, That had I known Things to be as you have represented them, I would have called it not a piece of *Chicanrie*, a hard *French* Word, and not fully expressive of the Thing, but in plain *Scotch*, downright *Knavery* ; But the particular Answer, take as follows,

First, That some while ago, there was a Story handed about, both in *Glasgow*, and in the Country, That some Bursar or other in the College of *Glasgow* had given a Discharge of the whole, when he had received but the half of what was due, and that the Bursar himself had complained of it, and that

that the Trustees were offended at it. That I say such a Story was handed about, I very well remember, and I hardly think you are such a stranger to what passes in *Glasgow*, as not to have heard of it, whether I did tell at Mr. *Campbel* of *Mamore's* Table, that there was such a Story going, I cannot be positive, I will not deny that I did; yet so far as I remember I did not, but if I did, I justify myself in it. Nor will any Man, either of Sense or Conscience take Offence at it, any more than at telling any ordinary piece of News that is going. I only add, That both I and many others have been imposed on, if there was not some Foundation for such a Story.

But then, 2^{dly}, On the other hand, That I told that it was Principal *Stirling*, who either delivered the Money, or either craved, or took the Discharge, or that he or any Man else refused, either *Positively* or *Comparatively* to pay the other half when required, or that I knew this. That I say, I told any of these things, either at Mr. *Campbel* of *Mamore's* Table, or any where else, I affirm to be false, and that the asserting I did, whoever your Informer was, is to borrow your own Phrase, *An undisguised Piece of Villany*. This I can be very positive in, because I hardly ever heard the Story told, but it was told at the same Time, that the Principal had no Hand in it. Wherefore Sir, it is incumbent upon you, to oblige your Informers to make good their Information. Mean while I don't well see why this Information should have lyen so long dormant, and be pop't out now after almost four Months Silence, within which Space of Time, the exact Remembrance of what passes in Conversation, uses to be lost with the most part of People, but it agrees abundantly well with the other base, false and malicious Treatment I have met with, whereof I hope the World shall hear in due Time, or if this shall be prevented by my Death, yet I believe a future Judgement, which I am sorry every one else does not, if I may take their Character by our Saviour's Rule, *By their Fruits ye shall know them*.

By this Time, Sir, I Hope, you will not say I have Neglected your Letter, there being no part of it so far as I can Observe, unanswered, I conclude with assuring you, That I am with great Respect and Affection,

Honoured Sir,

Your most Humble Servant,

JOHN ANDERSON.

P O S T S C R I P T.

Sir,

YOur Letter to me having been Subscribed with Your own Hand, Written with Another, and Back'd by a Third; I Conclude you Resolved not to make a Secret of it: Wherefore I Hope you will not take it amiss, if I make no Secret of this Answer.